

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus (10) for pushing a number of packaging containers (12) which are supported in cassettes (18) in movement in a first direction in a packaging machine, said apparatus (10) comprising: carriers (40) ~~by means of which push~~ the packaging containers ~~may be pushed~~ from a first position to a second position in relation to said cassettes; (18), ~~characterised in that the apparatus (10) comprises at least one belt (30, 32) which, in a first portion (34) of the apparatus (10), moves (40) by means of in a second direction and in a second portion (36) of the apparatus (10) moves in a third direction; that, a bending roller disposed between the first and the second portions; (34, 36), there is disposed a bending roller (24)[[:]] that the second and third directions each make making an angle α with the first direction; that the carrier (40) is being connected to a shaft (38) which is secured to the belt (30, 32) by means of a clamping device (42); and that the a centre point of the shaft is being offset a distance (J) from the pitch line (L) of the belt in a direction substantially at right angles thereto inwards towards the bending roller (24) so that a mutual distance (X₁, X₂) between two shafts (38), measured in the first direction, is substantially of equal size regardless of whether both shafts (38) are located in the first or second portion (34, 36) or whether the shafts are located one on either side of the bending roller (24).~~

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus (10) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the length of the distance (J) from the belt pitch line (L) is calculated in accordance with the formula

$$J = \frac{K}{\sin \alpha}$$

where α is said angle and K is calculated in accordance with the formula

$$K = R(\tan \alpha - \alpha)$$

where R is the radius from the centre of the bending roller to the pitch line ~~(L)~~ and where α is disclosed in radians.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the carrier ~~(40)~~ is provided with a surface adapted for abutment against the packaging container ~~(12)~~ and is journaled on the shaft ~~(38)~~ in such a manner that the surface of the carrier may rotate at least through said angle α in relation to the shaft ~~(38)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein it comprises~~ a first and a second pulley ~~(20, 22)~~ placed on the same height in relation to one another and placed on either side of the bending roller ~~(24)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the belt ~~(30, 32)~~ is a toothed belt.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the clamping device ~~(42)~~ for securing the shaft ~~(38)~~ to the belt ~~(30, 32)~~ comprises a first part adapted for whole or partial abutment in a tooth gap in the belt ~~(30, 32)~~ and in support means ~~(46)~~ in the shaft ~~(38)~~, said support means ~~(46)~~ forming continuations of the tooth gap at each end thereof and in which support means ~~(46)~~ the first part ~~(44)~~ may be snapped down; and wherein the first part ~~(44)~~ at each end is connected to a second part ~~(48, 50)~~ in the form of a yoke element, the yoke elements ~~(48, 50)~~ being adapted to surround the shaft

(38) so that there is formed a wrapping angle (β) between the points of abutment of the first part in the support means (46) in the shaft (38) and the points of abutment of the yoke elements against the shaft (38) which is sufficiently large for the geometry of the shaft to be able to retain the clamping device (42) in a secured position.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus (40) as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the shaft (38) is provided with at least one depression (56) adapted to at least partly accommodate the belt (30, 32) and in which depression (56) the support means (46) are placed.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus (40) as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the flat surface of the toothed belt is adapted to abut against a corresponding surface (56a) in the depression (56) in the shaft (38).

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus (40) as claimed in Claim 5, wherein each yoke element (48, 50) has an outer end (52) which is adapted to be snapped each into a corresponding hole (54) in the shaft (38).